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Monmouth #3 of USA's best places to live

According to *Money Magazine*, Monmouth and Ocean Counties rank #3 among the best places to live in America, coming behind Nashua, New Hampshire and Rochester, Minnesota respectively.

The article in the July issue cites the area's short towns, its arts scene and proximity to New York City, and the quality of health-care, as its selling points.

"The Monmouth and Ocean County region...is kind of like heavyweight George Foreman," the article said. "The 1,106-square-mile area, which broke into our top 10 for the first time this year, always had tremendous resources but took a while to get the respect it deserves."

"For people who like to live near—but not in—big cities, there may be no better locale than our Best Big Place to Live. Monmouth County, about 60 miles south of New York City, includes no fewer than 53 towns—ranging from reserved Spring Lake, with its elegant oceanfront mansions, to Rad Bank, a fully community filled with antique shops and restaurants. Ocean County, farther south, is more rural, with 120,000 acres of public land and 45 of the counties' combined 72 miles of Atlantic coastline," the article continued.

Each year, *Money Magazine* rates the 300 largest metropolitan areas in the country, and much of New Jersey fared well. Among the other rankings were the Central Jersey area (#29, up from its ranking last year of #83), Bergen/Passaic Counties (#70, up from #228), Mercer County (#126, from #265), Northwest New Jersey (#136, from #240), Cumberland County (#166 from 223), and Hudson County (#220 from 290). The worst area in the country was Davenport, Iowa, dropping from a ranking of #297 to rest at the bottom, #300.

Crime down in Elizabeth

ELIZABETH—Mayor Chris Bollwage announced today that overall crime dropped 4.45 percent in 1996, as reported by the FBI and Associated Press.

The total crime index decreased by 429 incidents, with significant declines in violent and non-violent offenses. The murder rate dropped by 37 percent over the same period.

Since taking office in 1993 Bollwage has hired 66 new police officers, bringing the department's numbers to their highest ever. He has placed plainclothes officers in the public schools, started walking patrols in business districts that are funded under the Urban Enterprise Zone program, and restructured the department to put more police on the street.

"Our new crime-fighting programs are making Elizabeth a safer, better city," Bollwage said. "We are seeing the results of our efforts."

'DOUBLE HOMICIDE!'

Cop shoots pregnant woman, suspended without pay

By Darryl Lamont Jenkins

NEWARK—A local woman five months pregnant is dead, the police officer who shot her is suspended without pay, and a planned "Fathers Appreciation Week" rally outside City Hall last Monday was scrubbed when hundreds of angry residents gathered at the same spot demanding reform of the police department, that even city councilpersons said lacked the ability to police themselves.

The rally stemmed from the Saturday, June 7, fatal shooting of Doncen "Strawberry" Daniels, 31, by Newark Police Officer Robert Leaks, a 10-year veteran of the police force.

This makes the third time in three weeks that a Newark officer has used deadly force on a suspect, and the 19th since the year started.

Daniels, who had a criminal record going back ten years and had an arrest warrant from Middlesex County, had been approached by Leaks and his partner Michael Johnson who said they observed what they believed to be a drug transaction.

On Saturday night, police attempted to arrest Daniels' for possession of what police suspected to be one vial of cocaine, according to reports.

Daniels' struggled with officer Leaks, as he tried to handcuff her.

As a large crowd formed around the struggle, police called for backup. At this time, Leaks' partner, Officer Johnson, attempted to halt the advancing crowd and to detain the teenager who was also thought to be involved in the drug transaction.

Daniels was placed into the rear passenger side of an unmarked police car with one handcuff on, Newark Sgt. Newark Sergeant Derek Glenn said.

At this point, Daniels climbed from the rear seat of the police car to the front seat and started the car engine. When Leaks opened the front passenger side door to apprehend Daniels, she placed the car in reverse, dragging Leaks. The officer fired one shot, killing her, reports said.

The car continued across Clinton Avenue, striking another car before rolling onto the sidewalk and striking a vacant building. Daniels' four-year-old son witnessed the incident.

Leaks was transported to University Hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Witnesses told a different story, citing wrongdoing by Officer Leaks.

Eye witnesses also said that Daniels was never in the front seat.

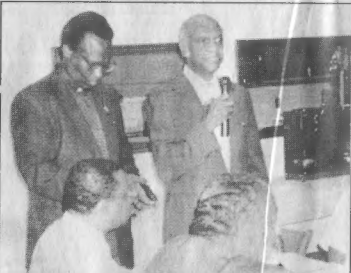
see DOUBLE HOMICIDE!
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Above: As a Newark policeman stands guard, residents express their outrage over the shooting death of a pregnant woman by a local officer. Below: Addressing the crowd of approximately 500 were (L-R), poet Amiri Baraka of Unity & Struggle, Portia Aton of the New Brunswick Coalition Against Police Brutality, and Mayor Sharpe James.



Clergy support suspended teachers



Dean Sabune of Trinity Episcopal Church and Dr. Edward Verner, President of the Committee of Black Churchmen

by Sonya Kimble-Elis

Minister's recently gathered at Newark's First Hopewell Baptist Church to voice their concern over the dismissal of Newark teachers because of alleged implications in an insurance fraud case. Teachers in other school districts, who are alleged to have taken part in the fraud, still have their jobs. Newark teachers claimed they were wrongfully dismissed by Superintendent Beverly Hall without a proper hearing or investigation.

Among those in attendance were Dr. Edward Verner, President of the Newark Committee of Black Churchmen, Dean Sabune, pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church and co-chair of the Churchmen's education committee; Reverend L.R. Durham, pastor of First Mt. Zion Baptist Church; Jethro C. James, pastor of Paradise Church; Reverend Robert Johnson, pastor of First Hopewell Baptist Church; Arthur Martin, Jr., counsel for the Newark teachers; Councilman George Branch and Councilwoman Mildred Crump.

Lewis A. Turner, co-chair of the pastor's education committee, began the conference with a state-

ment, "We call this press conference," he said, "because we felt it was important for the clergy to address the problems that confront 59 of our teachers who have been suspended without pay, without due process. Our education committee has worked very diligently over the past year and a half and have met with various education departments in several cities. We're lending our support to the plight of the teachers."

The pastor's education committee has started that support with the development of a "Equal and Better Rights for Employees" fund which has helped some of the unemployed teachers pay their rent and their car notes.

Since the employees names have been listed as being "under criminal investigation," many have been unable to purchase homes in other states, and some of their licenses and registrations have been revoked.

"We're gathered today, not because we're legislators, not because we're lawyers, but because we're preachers and pastors," said Dean Sabune. "That's what we're called to do."

Schundler calls for run-off

JERSEY CITY—According to reports handed down by the City Clerk at Jersey City, Mayor Bret Schundler captured 11 more votes (or 5.5 votes more than 50% of the total votes) than the combined total of his opponents in the May 13th mayoral election. As a result of the slim margin, opponent Jeremiah Healy filed a suit in court to overturn the Clerk's certification.

Initially, Schundler considered a countersuit before Judge Gallipoli of Jersey City but decided against it. He says he will let the public decide who becomes the city's next mayor. Instead, Schundler petitioned the Judge and the Superior Court to schedule a run-off election. It is set

to take place June 24th.

"The people of Jersey City should have a right to choose their mayor directly," Schundler said in a press issued statement.

"Hudson County's corrupt political machine has tried not just to steal this election, but to undercut the very legitimacy of the democratic electoral process. I can't sit back in good conscience and let this legal circus continue. Lawyers and judges should not decide the fate of our city, the people should."

In response to questions concerning his decision, Schundler asserts that he doesn't want to oppose Healy's suit and risk a court case that could last for many weeks.

If that were to happen, the City Council would have to elect and interim mayor on July 1st.

Schundler has requested that the Attorney General's office take action to insure that the elections go off without a hitch.

"I have asked the Court and the Attorney General to assign state troopers at each of Jersey City's 88 polling places to make sure that we have an honest election," he said.

"We have evidence that on May 13th, the local political machine engaged in rampant voter fraud, including double voting and people voting under multiple names."

Teleconferencing hits Jersey

by Sonya Kimble-Elis

Modern technology continues to find its way into classrooms across the country. A recent teleconferencing event at Newark's University High School linked students via television, to other students at Technology and Millburn High Schools. Students from each location were able to ask questions of Herbert Tate, President of the Board of Public Utilities.

"One of the reasons I came out to participate in this event," Tate began, "is because the Board of Public Utilities has just negotiated an agreement with Bell Atlantic of New Jersey which will allow for the interconnection between all of the students in the state of New Jersey, between now and the year 2000."

Tate went on to explain that students in all of the suburban, rural and areas in New Jersey will soon be able to share classroom experiences through television and an ATM system deployed by Bell Atlantic.

The primary site for the question and answer session was University High's L.T.V. (Interactive



Herbert Tate, president of the Board of Public Utilities, talks to students at University, Technology and Millburn high schools

effect in bringing the same cultural and same educational experiences to students no matter where you may live in the state."

Tate, who grew up in Newark's Central ward, stressed that schools in these areas have students with various ethnic backgrounds and that people of different backgrounds don't often get the chance to share their cultures. "This new technology will help us realize more of our similar

PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

EVERY MONDAY

NEWARK—Employment Clinic at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-977-3395.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—Effective Parenting Skills Training at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-977-1895.

EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

NEWARK—Free Health services by the City Dept. of Health and Human Services. For more information, call 201-733-7500.

EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NEWARK—Getting Started with the Computer at Essex County College. For more information, call 201-977-1899.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18-30

ESSEX COUNTY—The blood center of New Jersey community blood drives by county. For more information or to sign up to donate, call 1-800-blood NJ.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City Museum will celebrate three summer exhibitions at the Jersey City Museum: Ancient Emblems, Contemporary Signifiers; Deception, Betrayal, Loss; Signifiers, Tom and Plastered are some of the themes of the exhibit. For more information call 201-547-4514.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

NEWARK—Councilwoman Gayle H. Chaneyfield, invites you to join her in celebrating the oldest African American holiday observance "Juneteenth National Freedom Day. For more information call 201-547-7189.

WEST ORANGE—As part of its community education series, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation will sponsor a free program, titled "Osteoporosis: Prevention and Care at 7 p.m. For more information call 201-731-3900.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

NEW YORK—The New York Historical society will begin its annual series of low-cost Central Park summer walks at 2 p.m. Reservations recommended. For more information call 212-873-3400.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

NORTH BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital sponsors "Family Fun Day" with a live broadcast by WCTC radio. For more information call 908-745-7393.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library will begin its summer hours. The schedule will remain in effect until Saturday, September 6. For more information call 201-733-7798.

ROSELAND—The New Jersey Society of CPAs' Essex Chapter will hold its annual CPA 5k run for the benefit of children's charities. For more information call 201-226-4454.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

EDISON—Summer "Seniorization" workshop held at Middlesex County College Division of Corporate and Community Education's. The workshop welcomes young people into the world of laboratories and experiments. For more information call 732-906-2556.

CHAMFORD—Young people in grades five through eight may travel to outer space and beyond without leaving their home county thanks to a non-credit enrichment course, "Space Station UCC" during July at Union County College's Sperry Observatory. For more information call 908-709-7600.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

MAHWAH—The 1997 Minolta Summer Concert series presents The New Jersey Pop Swing Band who has performed before enthusiastic audiences throughout the state. The event will conclude with a non-credit course, "Kids Make Movies" to be held during July at Union County College. For more information call 908-709-7600.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Harm Reduction and Sex Workers," part of the Drug Policy Seminar Series at the Lindisheim Center. For more information, call 212-887-0685.

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 21

CRANFORD—Young people ages 11 through 16 may obtain some practical, hands-on exposure to the movie industry through a non-credit course, "Kids Make Movies" to be held during July at Union County College. For more information call 908-709-7600.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

NEW YORK—Video Screening, "The Heroin Wars" part of the Drug Policy Seminar Series at the Lindisheim Center. For more information, call 212-887-0685.

MAHWAH—The 1997 Minolta Concert series presents The Emerald Experience. The Emerald Experience returns to transport the audience back to the 50s and 60s. For more information call 201-529-7802.

Winners chosen in Pepsi-Cola and Essence Magazine fifth annual Pepsi youth awards



New York, NY—Four high-school students, Tamika Peters, Salda Harley, Valerie Page and Kaja Brown competed against a total of 200 applicants and were named grand-prize winners in the fifth annual Pepsi Youth Awards, held at the Harlem School of the Arts in March. Conducted by Pepsi-Cola and ESSENCE magazine, in conjunction with the Tenth Anniversary Essence Awards Celebration, the Pepsi Youth Awards recognized achievement in forensics (oratory), vocal music, instrumental music and community service or leadership by students 14 to 17 years old in the greater New York New Jersey and Connecticut area.

Plainfield Health Center Holds Queen City Ball



Over 200 guests attended the Queen City Ball, sponsored by the Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services Corporation (Plainfield Health Center). The event honored Ronald E. West,

Chair of the Board, whose leadership brought to fruition the new Plainfield Health Center. The Ball also celebrated the one year anniversary of the opening of the new state-of-the-art health facility, located at 1700-58 Myrtle Avenue in Plainfield. Proceeds from the event, which included a Silent Auction and musical entertainment by Teacher's Plus 3, will benefit Phase II of the corporation's Capital Campaign.

Weekly Horoscope

ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 20)

Your strength and courage will be required during this week to meet a personal challenge. This seems to be an inner struggle of self worth. You may become privy to information concerning a financial matter, don't take any advice lightly.

TAURUS: (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You have alot going for you this week, so try to use that positive energy wisely. Keep your goals ever in mind, and be willing to wait for just the right time. Your self-confidence is renewed and those around you will no doubt benefit. Find approval and love from within.

GEMINI: (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

It may be time to make a change in a relationship that is eating up your time and energy. It just may not be worth the effort. If you are overused at work, let a supervisor know that you need help. Feelings will be expressed which are sincere, so take them to heart.

CANCER: (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Stand up for yourself and don't let anyone, friend or family, get away with what is right of yours. If you are in the market for Mr. or Mrs. Right, they may be right in front of your eyes, so keep your eyes open. Don't be manipulated by guilt into doing something undesirable.

LEO: (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Hard work and more hard work will give you an enormous sense of satisfaction this week. Time seems to fly because you are so wrapped up in a current project. This will lay a foundation on which success will surely be built. You will attract positive notice.

VIRGO: (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

A fresh start this week may be just what you need. Your financial situation seems to be improving steadily, though maybe not as quickly as you would like. This new beginning just may be marred by your inclination to go for glitter instead of substance and quality.

LIBRA: (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Don't put all your eggs into one basket this week, especially regarding relationships. Relying too heavily on others will only hurt and disappoint you. Motivation will take hold of you and with a little blood flowing, your enthusiasm will affect all those around you.

SCORPIO: (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

The blues may be trying to follow you throughout the week. There is truly an abundance of love and affection surrounding you from just about everywhere, so there is no reason to stay withdrawn. Do not jump to conclusions about a co-worker, things aren't always what they seem.

SAGITTARIUS: (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21)

It may be time to make that commitment to a primary relationship which is long overdue. If you are having second thoughts, it is no doubt time to talk about whether or not it's worth investing more time and energy into something which may not be beneficial to either of you.

CAPRICORN: (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20)

You seem to be easily influenced during the week, which is very uncharacteristic for you. Could it be some sweet face has you in it's spell? Try to keep your temper in check when someone in the workplace tries to push your buttons. Not everyone meets your high moral code.

AQUARIUS: (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Communications will be very important during the week. Your significant other may be feeling left out and needs the reassurance that they crave. Children may need guidance concerning educational matters, and friends need support regarding a life decision.

PISCES: (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Protect your feelings during the week by keeping them to yourself. If you do something nice for someone else, don't expect to be thanked, there is no need to do that for their own sake. Take people for what they are, not what you want them to be.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You may be accused of being both elusive and shallow. And you are elusive in order to protect the privacy you consider so very precious. You are not shallow, but have the ability to detach your emotions from your intellect, and tend to just skim the surface of many things.

Cosby named member to All-Region XIX



Crystal Cosby of Plainfield, right, a student and member of the Women's Basketball Team at Union County College, Cranford, receives congratulations from Victor Richel of Berkeley Heights, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees. The congratulations are for Ms. Cosby being named as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association's All-Region XIX Team based on her outstanding performance on the basketball court among other collegiate players regionally.

Urban League honors graduates

By Kennard D. McGill

NEWARK— The Urban League of Essex County celebrated its clients accomplishments and achievements in an agency-wide program graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 5.

The ceremony involved over 175 graduates from six different Urban League agencies.

Graduates from the various programs dressed in all white were called up one by one to receive their certificates of accomplishment by Lydia Davis Barrett, President and CEO of the Urban League of Essex County.

Barrett noted that this was the first time the ULEC has held a agency-wide ceremony for all the graduates, as part of their 80th year anniversary. The programs involve a school-to-work job training effort to assist African Americans in achieving social and economic equality said Barrett. Components of some



Lydia Davis Barrett presents certificates to graduates

of the programs include teaching computer literacy, basic skills, job readiness, and personal life management skills. The ULEC is based on three principles said Barrett.

"One of our main goals is social

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COLTS NECK:
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DEAL:
90 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 227
27 Project Street
EAST ORANGE:
27 Project Street

FREHOLD:
Highway 9 and Adams Road
HILLSIDE:
1122 Liberty Avenue
IRVINGTON:
24 Milltown Avenue
1331 Springfield Avenue
1660 Springfield Avenue
LIVINGSTON:
222 South Main Avenue
271 East Broadway
LONG BRANCH:
20 Broadway

MADISON:
15 University Place
MILLBURN:
245 Milltown Avenue
NAVESKING:
Highway 28 and Valley Drive
PLAINFIELD:
125 Main Street
SHORT HILLS:
The Mall Shopping Center

SPRINGFIELD:
172 Shortland Avenue
Mountain and Union Avenues
SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:
Highway 28 and Valley Drive
TOMS RIVER:
874 Route 130, Bay Plaza
(Over the Canal)
UMION:
271 1/2 Highway 202, Route 202
Pulaski Shopping Center

National Briefs

NEW FACTS ON GUN OWNERSHIP

WASHINGTON—Whites in the United States are more likely to own guns than Blacks, and Blacks are more likely than Hispanics said a recent study. About 25 percent of American adults own a firearm and ownership is most prevalent among middle-aged, middle class whites from rural areas. The national survey of private ownership of firearms was carried out for the Police Foundation by professors from Georgetown and Duke universities. The survey also said some 50 percent of American firearm owners and most handgun owners buy them for protection against crime. On a typical day in the U.S., the report said, one million adults carry guns with them and two million carry firearms in their vehicles. Where firearms were most used for hunting, now most handgun owners and 46 percent of all gun owners, said they possessed weapons primarily for protection against criminals, according to report. The study also found that 20 percent of gun owners failed to follow safe storage procedures for keeping guns locked and unloaded.

LATEST TWIST IN CIA/CONTRA COCAINE SCANDAL

SAN JOSE—Gray Webb, the San Jose Mercury News investigative reporter who extensively documented a pattern of the U.S. government's knowledge and complicity in cocaine trafficking, recently defended his work on "The Madison Show" amid a new barrage of attacks that seek to discredit his findings. Webb says that since February, the Mercury News has been holding four new stories that confirm information in the previous series and even goes further to implicate the CIA and the National Security Council in the cocaine trafficking scandal. On May 11, the Mercury News' executive editor, Jerry Ceppos, wrote an editorial in which he said, among other things, that the new series: "Didn't meet journalistic standards; overestimated the amount of money the Nicaraguan Contra Rebels made from cocaine sales; contained 'gray areas' in the reporting and didn't include comments from the CIA. Madison dissected Ceppos editorial point-by-point with Webb, who refuted Ceppos' assertions. Madison said that the concerns raised by both the series and the editorial confirms the need for an open Congressional Hearing. Joe Madison and activist/comedian Dick Gregory are in the seventh month of a hunger strike to call national attention to the CIA crack/cocaine issue.

JOHN HENRIK CLARKE DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES

St. Clair Bourne, the award-winning director, writer, and producer of some 40 film and television productions premiered his newest film, "John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk," on June 1. Actor Wesley Snipes, who is executive producer and narrator of this feature-length non-fiction film, joined the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in honoring Dr. Clarke at the premiere. The film explores the history and philosophy of this influential figure, and includes interviews with Clarke, along with rare archival footage and photographs. "Because of Wesley Snipes' involvement in the film," said Bourne, "we had an unusual melding of big Hollywood production values with the sensibility of a personal and very independent documentary." John Henrik Clarke first appeared on the Harlem scene in the 1930s. He was advisor to Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, a confidant of Malcolm X in the 1960s and evolved as the leading proponent of an Afrocentric view of history and culture.

Professor leads black delegation to Cuba

CUBA—Professor Manning Marable of Columbia University will lead a delegation of African-American scholars, writers, artists and political activists to Cuba in June to examine race and gender issues, the introduction of a market economy and the politics of human rights and dissent in Cuban society.

Professor Marable, director of Columbia's Institute for Research in African-American Studies, will head the 15-member fact-finding delegation that will travel for 9 days beginning June 3 for interviews and research in Havana and Santiago. In October, the delegation will present their findings in a symposium to be held at Columbia University.

The group will travel without restrictions as guests of the Center for the Study of the Americas, said Professor Marable. "We will be able to talk with anyone and to establish our own itinerary," he added.



Manning Marable

Professor Marable noted that there is a long political, cultural and intellectual tradition of contacts between black Americans and the Cuban people, extending from the black abolitionist Frederick Douglass to contemporary activists in the black liberation movement today.

"Cuba has represented metaphorically the ability of an oppressed people to challenge imperialism and colonialism," he said. "In the political imagination of black America, Cuba represents the radical possibility of fundamental social change. One of the key questions now is — What does Cuba represent for Black America in this period of political transition?"

The delegation, according to Professor Marable, will examine the experiences of Afro-Cubans in politics and society, the images of race and "blackness" in Cuban culture and how race has been constructed and restructured since the revolution.

In addition, the group's research will focus on the changing role of women in Cuban society, the economic transformation of Cuba since the end of the cold war, including the introduction of a market econ-

omy, the growth of class stratification and the elimination of social guarantees of employment. Further, the researchers will look at the politics of human rights, democracy and political freedom.

"The Cuban experiment with socialism raises a number of theoretical questions about the difficulties of social transformation in multiracial societies," said Professor Marable. "How successful has Cuba been in uprooting racism and sexism? Are the values of a socialist society possible in a transition to a market economy?"

The group will meet with academics, writers, artists and government officials during its trip. In addition to Professor Marable, members of the Columbia faculty who will join the delegation include Michael Eric Dyson and Mary Patillo, the Jewell Davis, Columbia University Chaplain.

Former Black Panther freed on bail

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AF SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SANTA ANA, CA (AP)—More than a quarter of a century after being accused of a murder he claims he didn't commit, former Black Panther Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt stepped out of jail to a hero's welcome.

Pratt's taste of freedom came after an emotional courtroom appearance in which a judge set bail at \$25,000.

On May 29, Superior Court Judge Everett Dickey had reversed Pratt's 1972 conviction in the murder of a woman on a Santa Monica tennis court.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your fair and courageous ruling," Pratt said in a hoarse voice Tuesday as he stood before Dickey.

Less than two hours after bail was set, Pratt walked out of jail and into the warm embrace of a cheering crowd.

"This is wonderful," said his wife, Ashaki Pratt. "It has just been a wonderful day."

His daughter, Shona, 17, and son Hiroji, 14, also stood nearby. Pratt and his wife were allowed conjugal visits during his incarceration.

The audience included former Black Panther leaders David Hilliard and Eldridge Cleaver, author of the book "Soul on Ice." "This is black America's victory," said Hilliard, a Black Panther Party founder. "This is a good day for America—hopefully a new day."

Cleaver, 61, dubbed it "a day of victory and of truth."

"His legacy is one of endurance, of always saying no to the attempts to subvert him," Cleaver said.

Pratt maintains that he was targeted by the government because it was out to persecute the Black Panther Party in the turbulent 1960s. There are other victims, he said.

"It's madness in there," Pratt, 49, said of the prison system. "You have political prisoners on top of political prisoners. I'm only one of a great many that should be exposed, should be addressed."

Declaring himself a "mama's boy," Pratt said he wanted to go see his 94-year-old mother in Morgan City, La.

Pratt was later rushed away to attend a rally at the First AME Church, one of Los Angeles' oldest and most influential black churches.

He was scheduled to spend the night in Southern California before leaving for the San Francisco area on Wednesday, according to his San Francisco attorney's office.

Pratt was arrested in 1970 and charged with murdering school teacher Caroline Olsen in a robbery on a Santa Monica tennis court in 1968. He was convicted in 1972 and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Pratt insisted he was in Oakland at the time of the killing.

In overturning the conviction, Dickey said the case was undermined by a revelation the jury never heard: that the key witness against Pratt was a paid informant for the FBI and police. The witness claim Pratt confessed.

The Los Angeles County district attorney said last week he will appeal Dickey's ruling but did not oppose Pratt's bail.

The witness in Pratt's case was Julius Butler, now an attorney and, until his resignation Tuesday, chairman of the board at First AME. Mark Whitlock, a church official, said Butler resigned after Pratt's release.

"As that door opens for Geronimo Pratt, the door closes for Julius Butler as a leader within the First AME Church," said Whitlock. "But Julius will continue to be a member here. Now is the time for healing.... We invite Geronimo Pratt to come to the First AME Church and share in the glory of Jesus," he said.

Outside the jail, Pratt said he wished Butler well.

"I hope he can wake up out of that stupor or whatever he's in and begin telling the truth about his puppet role, his house-Negro status," Pratt said. "Even if he doesn't, the truth is going to come out."

Amid a chaotic scene outside court, defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran Jr. and Stuart Hanlon stepped before the press.

"This is a great day for justice in America," Cochran said, praising Pratt as a war veteran and a man of

"character and integrity."

"I once said I couldn't retire until he was free; today I can retire but I'm not," Cochran said.

Pratt served in Vietnam, where he earned a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars in combat.

Hanlon said people had been approaching him asking if Pratt's release justified the American legal system.

"The answer is no," he said. "The justice system that kept him in jail for 25 years can't be justified by one judge's ruling. It's been a long struggle."

Murder suspect indicted

BY CATHERINE CROCKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The prime suspect in the slaying of Jonathan Levin did not know the teacher was the son of a wealthy media mogul and was startled when the crime sparked a massive manhunt, a high-ranking police source said.

Investigators say Corey Arthur, a former student and friend of Levin who allegedly boasted about the killing, was surprised by widespread news reports of the victim's background, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Before Arthur, 19, and alleged accomplice Montonum Hart, 25, were arrested, police speculated that Levin was targeted because he was the son of Time Warner chairman and CEO Gerald Levin.

Police felt certain that Arthur "didn't know about the father," the source said. "He just knew [Jonathan Levin] pulled down a paycheck and was easy prey."

Levin's body was found June 2 in his Upper West Side apartment in his Upper West Side apartment. Arthur and Hart allegedly bound Levin with duct tape, then used a knife to torture him into revealing the password to his bank card. According to court papers, Arthur then shot Levin in the right side of the head and used the card to withdraw \$800. He gave \$100 to Hart.

Arthur denied killing the teacher, said his attorney, Anthony Riccio. Court papers show that Arthur told police he fled Levin's apartment after two armed intruders burst in and ordered him to tie Levin up.

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EDITORIAL

Rent-to-Own Stores - Charge 200% interest on credit to poor because of lack of access to bank credit

Last year Assemblyman Richard Bagger, Republican from Westfield, introduced a bill last year that limits interest rates at rent to own stores to 30 percent.

According to a survey by New Jersey Public Interest Research Group, rent to own customers pay as much as 275% for appliances, furniture, computers and other merchandise. The survey revealed that 37% of items in stores are not marked to show whether they were new or used and that rates of interest were not disclosed. Of the 124 rent to own stores surveyed, 59 charged annual rates of more than 100 percent, more than 5 times the average retail price of the item. Because low income people have no choice of credit, they must turn to these centers to get credit. Thus, people who have very little income, are being gouged by stores that could make a fair profit with lower interest rates, yet they are bleeding the communities in which they are located.

We commend Assemblyman Richard Bagger, for introducing his bill. We wonder, however, why Assembly Democrats who represent most of the poorer urban centers failed to jump on this issue. Likewise we wonder why they have not looked into the lack of capital, credit, and financial services available to their districts. It is clear that the proliferation of check cashing centers, high interest furniture stores, and rent-to-own centers, that are sucking the life out of the poor communities, are there because they can make big profits and because traditional banks and financial institutions have redefined these communities in one way or another.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Becoming a father is an important decision; fatherhood requires a life-long commitment. That's why at Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey, we urge men to share responsibility for family planning and contraception. This requires an understanding of what birth control methods are available and how they work.

Planned Parenthood encourages men to visit our family planning centers with their partners, and to become more knowledgeable about all aspects of contraception. Birth control methods such as Norplant and Depo-Provera, available at our ten centers, may be of interest to you and your partner. We also have information available about male birth control and reproductive health care.

By visiting our family planning centers, men can show they care and are willing to take an equal responsibility for birth control. They also learn a great deal about how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), including HIV/AIDS. In fact, PPGNNJ treats the partners of our patients diagnosed with an STD.

For a free brochure on male birth control and reproductive health care, send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to PPGNNJ Center for Family Life Education, 575 Main Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

We hope all fathers everywhere had a Happy Father's Day - from Planned Parenthood!

Jeffrey Brand
President and CEO

A salute to Sister Betty

by Lawrence Hamm

Our dear sister, Dr. Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, himself a martyr and hero of the Black Liberation Movement is at this moment lying in a hospital bed in extremely, critical condition, the victim of a fire which has left her with third-degree burns over 80 percent of her body. It is especially difficult for many of us to imagine her in this state because just a few weeks ago, she stood before us vibrant, forceful, and full of life as we celebrated what would have been her husband's 72nd birthday.

The news of this awful tragedy stunned our entire community and filled our hearts with grief because of the close bond our community has developed with her over the past 30 years. We grieve because this

tragedy comes in the wake of the first one in which left her a widow, her children fatherless, and our entire community diminished, when her husband El Hajj Malik El Shabazz was assassinated.

But that terrible experience did not destroy her. In the aftermath, she furthered her education, obtained a Ph.D. degree, became a respected professional, sent her six daughters to college, and while doing all this continued to uphold the legacy of Malcolm X. That she was able to achieve so much is a testament to the strength of black people in general and black women in particular.

We grieve because she was not able to escape fire this time as she did when Malcolm was alive. We grieve because this time we could not be there to stop it from happening again.

Attacks on Clinton: Character or politics?

By George Wilson

From the day that William Jefferson Clinton raised his right hand and was sworn in as President of the United States, he has been targeted by his political adversaries. This president has seen everything from his days in high school to his tenure as the Governor of Arkansas scrutinized. However, in spite of special counsels, inquiring Congressional committees and questionable journalism on the part of some media, none of the president's missteps have caused him to stumble from office or significantly fall in public opinion polls.

Now, Clinton appears to be on his way to providing stimulation to an American public that has exhibited

ed a particular delight in court cases involving the rich and famous. According to a lawsuit filed by Paula Corbin Jones in 1994, she was the victim of unwanted sexual advances from Bill Clinton. At the time of the alleged incident, Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and Jones was a state employee. The suit contends that Jones was punished by lack of promotion, rude treatment from fellow employees and suffered defamation of character. Clinton claims he doesn't even recall meeting his accuser.

Since the suit was filed, lawyers for Clinton have been trying to delay any court proceedings involving the Chief Executive from occurring until his term of office is complete. The battle eventually found its way to the Supreme Court which

recently ruled that the president "can be sued for actions outside the scope of his official duties." In other words, the Supreme Court is saying, "let the games begin."

Since this writer, and no reader were present in the room when the alleged offense occurred, we are forced to believe either the president or Paula Jones. The final arbiters of this dispute will be the jury that will have a front row seat at the proceedings, along with a probable television audience. Clinton will have to account for his actions or the lack thereof. However, the credibility of all American politicians will be placed on the world stage for all to see.

A scenario is developing here in Washington in which the president and his associates could be spending

more time in hearings or courtrooms than in their offices doing the nation's business.

I am certain that there are many Republicans who are jumping for joy at that possibility. It seems that they want the courts to do what they couldn't accomplish at the ballot box.

Clinton can avoid an embarrassing public trial by settling this matter out of court. The other option is to follow the lead of many of his predecessors by denying everything and being caught, so to speak, with his pants down.

The Republicans are having great fun now. However, it won't be quite as humorous when some of the charges they are hurling at Clinton come flying back at some of them.

The persecution of Don King?

By Asika Muhammad

I recognize that it is difficult for most people to "feel sorry" for Don King. Compared to some other Black men who have been convicted in court for killing another person, Pennsylvania death row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal, or just-released former Black Panther Party leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, for example, Mr. King does not earn a lot of sympathy as a symbol of someone who has been grossly wronged by the American criminal prosecution system.

Mr. King is, after all, unlike Mr. Jamal or Mr. Pratt, a wealthy entrepreneur. He makes so much money in fact, that he pays more than \$30 million per year in federal taxes. He is also a man who cheers loudly about how great the opportunities

are in this country: "Only in America," he proclaims during his frequent television appearances.

King now faces a second trial on charges of defrauding the Lloyd's of London insurance company out of \$200,000 following the cancellation of a fight between Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Zurriel in 1994.

Those federal charges, brought by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and reviewed by Attorney General Janet Reno, were not considered worthy of prosecution by the local New York state Attorney General who has primary jurisdiction in the case, and are, in the eyes of the Black Leadership Forum (BLF), are nothing more than "selective prosecution."

As difficult as it may be to sympathize with the bragadocios billionaire, in this instance Don King deserves our support.

Time to address civil rights issues

By Rev. Jesse Jackson

I have sought to do nothing but the obvious assault on equality of opportunity and equal protection under the law that is taking place across this nation. The attacks now threaten to undermine the civil rights laws which so many sacrificed to make to create. Yet in the face of this crisis, the basic structure of federal civil rights law enforcement is in a shameful disrepair that renders it weak and ineffective.

Today, the laws guaranteeing equal opportunity are not being adequately enforced. The US Civil Rights Commission reports critical civil rights agencies are under-staffed, under-funded, and unable to enforce the law.

There is no Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the

Justice Department. This key leadership position in civil rights enforcement remains vacant, with no appointing authority.

There is no civil rights liaison in the White House. Who is there at the White House to insist that funding and staffing of the civil rights agencies must be a priority? Who is charged with insuring that strong judges, committed to enforcing equal opportunity under the law, are nominated with dispatch? Who is there to remind the political advisors that moving people off welfare fare is easy, the challenge is to lift them out of poverty?

The crisis is urgent. The need for a coordinated, strong policy response is clear....

The President did respond quickly, meeting with Rev. Jackson & Wade Henderson, and promising another one soon after. The question that remains is, what will be the policy response?

Natural resources and recent rumble in the jungle

By William Reed

Does African Americans' preoccupation with government and politics cause us to overlook the important role that economics play in the events and issues of the world? Most of us think that people involved in politics are actually in leadership roles in the world and, in the process, miss a basic Golden Rule: "He who has the gold makes the rules." Those who control the world's gold and generate the business and economic are the arbiters at the core of all actions among the world's society. Looking at the world without the blinders of so-called "democracy" will raise our consciousness of watching where the gold goes.

Take a look at the underpinnings of the victory of Laurent Kabila in Africa's third largest country. As his forces captured the Zairian capital city of Kinshasa, Kabila, the "freedom fighter" proclaimed himself head of state, announced the dissolution of the Zairian Constitution and Parliament, and declared that his Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF) would unilaterally assume state power as the transitional authority. Rather than working for a power-sharing arrangement that would bring in other political groups that had been fighting former

President Mobutu Sese Seko, Kabila declared himself head of state and his forces the sole political party. Elections can't be held until a re-education campaign is launched among the overwhelmingly illiterate and poverty-stricken population.

The first duty, says the ADFE, is to "awaken the population politically." But actually, their first actions were to appoint companies among the rush of investment houses and mining firms coming into the country to cut deals for the gold and other raw materials.

People bent on the politics of the situation missed how Kabila amassed an army and armaments to capture Zaire!

In the weeks of Kabila's final drive to "free" a country \$6.6 billion in debt, foreign companies arrived in droves to foot the bill for the much to stirr up Mobutu. Kabila personally met with representatives of DeBeers Consolidated Mines Ltd., South African diamond firm, American Diamond Buyers, Britain's Barrick Gold and Canada's Tenke Mining Corp., long before he marched into Kinshasa. American Mineral Fields, a Canadian firm based in Hope, Ariz., hosted a conference of 30 representatives of Canadian, British, and U.S. mining and investment houses, with Kabila in Lubumbashi. Months ago, Amer-

ican Minerals signed a billion-dollar deal with Kabila, for 49 percent, to process copper and cobalt tailings at Kolwezi and develop a zinc mine at Kipushi and explore the region.

At the Lubumbashi conference, two American firms - Goldman-Sachs and Nile International of North Carolina - were among the 30 businesses eager to cut deals. This conference also included U.S. politicians such as Black Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Robin Sanders of the U.S. State Department and Philip Christenson from Jesse Helms' Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. Although it has gold, copper, manganese, cobalt, zinc and industrial grade diamonds, Kabila's Democratic Republic of the Congo has few roads, hospitals or jobs. Although her public comments did not mention her being a part of this massive delegation, Rep. McKinney was very visible on American media, when she returned, talking about Kabila's co-mitment to "elections" and democracy.

Noting the gold and its impact on who rules, pay attention to Kabila governing from the minerals' capital of Lubumbashi rather than the past government's capital city of Kinshasa. Lubumbashi is preferable for Kabila because it is at

the heart of the country's mineral-rich areas. Watch where the gold is and where it goes. The point of interest for companies descending on the country is its eastern region. The taking of Kinshasa was only meant to ensure total annihilation of any sovereign national control of Zaire's wealth.

"Fair and free elections," for Zaire is the current cry from African Americans and their politicians. But, in reality, stopping the raping and pillaging of the country is what is needed now. Making sure that Kabila and his capitalist allies don't take wealth and raw materials out of the country without returning anything to its people should be a prime consideration for the international community. Note that there is nothing wrong with Kabila's people bringing modern industry, and his gold-seekers, to this new Congo, but Kabila and his capitalist allies don't take wealth and raw materials out of the country without returning anything to its people should be a prime consideration for the international community. 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BUSINESS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

SPRINGFIELD—Free investment seminar, "How to Realize Your Retirement Dreams," at the Holiday Inn. For more information, call 1-800-347-5018.

BROOKLYN—The Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation is sponsoring a summer workshop for the small business owner. Financial & Tax strategies for the small business. For more information call 718-322-4600.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

ATLANTIC CITY—The NJ Department of Labor's occupational analysis-industrial services unit offers a employer seminar on labor relations at the Best Western Atlantic City West Hotel. The topic will be wage & hour compliance & workplace development. For more information call 609-272-0200.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Profit Making Sales Strategies" at the Holiday Inn. For more information, call 718-222-3630.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

PHILADELPHIA—The Sunoco Welcome America 1 Philadelphia 4th July celebration will present ten days of family fun with more than 40 FREE events. For information call 1-800-770-5883.

Scandal continues at UPS

by Dianne Anderson

OAKLAND, C.A.—In early May, a package displaying a swastika which was found in a truck being used by an African-American UPS worker, was the latest of a half-dozen similar incidents to scandalize the company since January. The package turned up a week after a lawsuit was filed by African-American employees charging racial bias at the company.

"The bottom line at UPS is that we don't tolerate discrimination and we're going to do whatever it takes to find the people who are responsible," said UPS Regional Community Relations Manager Oscar Sepulveda.

Responding to allegations of discrimination in the suit, Sepulveda maintained the company is "in full compliance with affirmative action as well as full compliance with federal contract regulations."

However UPS could not provide the Precinct Reporter with an ethnic breakdown to help gauge the parity between workers. Some suggest that Black workers are relegated to low-level jobs compared to whites who occupy middle and upper management positions.

On that and related issues, 16 African-American employees filed a class action suit in Oakland Federal Court accusing UPS of discrimination in promotions and procedures. The suit encompasses 10 states within the Northwest and Pacific regions.

The plaintiffs allege they were routinely given dangerous work assignments, denied training and promotions and because of the suit, continue to experience harassment.

Carter said the first episode began the morning after he gave a deposition against the company. A package with the hate acronym "KKK" was placed in the back of another African-American employ-

ee's company vehicle. Later that evening, the same message was scrawled on the bathroom wall.

Emphasizing that the police was not notified at that time of the "KKK" incident, Lewis said his supervisor simply crossed out the acronym on the package and forwarded it through the mail. He added that two weeks lapsed before the graffiti was finally removed from the walls of the bathroom.

"They had a meeting five days later (saying) there will be no writing on the packages or UPS property," That was it. No outcry, nothing," he said.

Lewis, a UPS driver for 23 years further charged that whistle-blowing on the inadequate way the hate crimes were handled has had severe ramifications.

Currently, two other multi-discrimination lawsuits are also underway against the company, one in Missouri and the other in Florida, sources said.

BPU supports Minority and Women-Owned Business Conference

PRINCETON—In an effort to ensure that minority and women owned businesses have equal access to the soon-to-be deregulated energy marketplace, the Board of Public Utilities adopted a resolution in support of the First Annual New Jersey Public Utility Business Opportunity Conference for Minority and Women-Owned Enterprises.

The event which will be sponsored by 16 public utilities and cable companies regulated by the Board, is scheduled to be held at the Princeton Marriott on Wednesday, June 18. Herbert H. Tate, president of the Board of Public Utilities, said the event will provide minority and women-owned businesses, public utilities and cable companies an opportunity to meet and learn more about the ways in which they can do business together.

"The opportunities that exist for business in a deregulated electric and gas market are tremendous," said President Tate. This business conference will make certain that minority and women business owners are aware of what is available, and will give them the opportunity to build strong business relationships with New Jersey's utilities and cable companies."

In its resolution, the Board noted that public utility and cable television companies regulated by the Board make a significant annual contribution to the state's economy with their procurement of materials

and services. The Board also indicated that it is committed to lending support to any event that encourages minority and women-owned businesses to forge effective working relationships with members of the public utility business community.

Planning to participate in the program are CEOs and other top-level executives and procurement directors from a number of the state's leading public utilities, representatives from the New Jersey Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Board of Public Utilities, as well as several minority and women vendors who have already managed to establish successful, on-going relationship with public utilities.

The 16 public utilities and cable television companies sponsoring the event include Atlantic Energy, AT&T, Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Comcast Corporation, Consumers New Jersey Water, Elizabethtown Gas, Elizabethtown Water, GPU Energy, MCI, Middlesex Water, New Jersey American Water, New Jersey Natural Gas, Public Service Electric & Gas, Rockland Electric, United Water New Jersey and South Jersey. The registration fee of \$25.00 includes the full program, continental breakfast, lunch and a networking reception.

To obtain additional information contact John R. Smith at (201-430-5917) or Timothy C. Hearse, Jr. at (908-938-1058).

Business plans increase chances

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—

The chances of success by companies undertaking major expansion or by those starting a new business will increase by 50% or more if they first prepare a business plan. Secondly, the chances of obtaining a bank loan increased by even a greater percent, when the applicant had prepared a business plan. These are the two principal findings in a recently completed study by the American Institute of Small Business.

Business Plan Example sells for \$29.95 and is available from the American Small Business Institute (800) 328-2906.



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ASK DR. CLARK

Q. HOW SHOULD PARENTS PREPARE FOR THE TIME WHEN A BABY'S FIRST TEETH COME IN?

A. EMERGENCE OF THE FIRST TEETH IS A HAPPY MILESTONE, BUT IT OFTEN CAUSES PAIN AS THE TEETH SLOWLY BREAK THROUGH THE GUMS. WHEN A BABY BECOMES IRRITABLE, IT'S LIKELY THAT A TOOTH IS ABOUT TO COME THROUGH. BE PATIENT AND CONCENTRATE ON RELIEVING THE DISCOMFORT. THIS OFTEN IS DONE BY GENTLY RUBBING THE GUMS WITH A SMALL SPOON OR A FINGER, MAKING SURE EITHER IS CLEAN. HAVE A TITTING RING READY FOR THE BABY. SOME CAN BE CHILLED TO EASE THE PAIN. IF DISCOMFORT PERSISTS DESPITE THESE MEASURES, ASK THE DENTIST ABOUT MEDICATIONS THAT CAN BRING RELIEF BY NUMBING THE GUMS.

ONCE TEETH EMERGE, IT'S UP TO THE PARENTS TO KEEP THEM HEALTHY AND AVOID DECAY. REGULARLY WIPES THE BABY'S TEETH AND GUMS WITH A DAMP GAUZE PAD AFTER EACH FEEDING. CONSULT THE DENTIST IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE BABY'S TEETH.

BROUGHT TO YOU AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY
DR. JAMES CLARK
185 CENTRAL AVE., EAST ORANGE, NJ 07018
(201) 672-1717



Taxpayers have rights

by Richard D. Gardiner

NEW JERSEY—New Jersey enacted a "Taxpayers Bill of Rights" in 1992. At first glance, a law that tells government how to deal with people seems unnecessary. After all, as Americans, we're all entitled to fairness and equity; but at the same time, almost every American has his or her own story to tell about high-handed or unfair treatment at the hands of some government agency. We work hard to avoid that. At the New Jersey Division of Taxation. We collect your taxes, but we still work for you. Taxpayer rights are the law in New Jersey, and as such, they provide the Division with strict operational guidelines and taxpayers with real guarantees.

Under the law, you have a right to obtain clear and accurate information about:

- the state tax implications of any situation or transaction;
- your own personal or corporate state tax liability and the method by which that liability was determined;
- any notice you receive from the Division of Taxation; and
- your responsibilities and rights as a taxpayer.

You have a right to expect a response to your questions from the Division within a reasonable period of time, and a right to expect that the advice we give you is sound. If you disagree with a determination made by the Division, you have the right to appeal that decision.

Contact us by calling the Division's Tax Hotline at (609) 588-2200.

Trenton's economy gets boost

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ — A program created by a Rider University marketing professor to teach entrepreneurial and business management skills to Trenton sixth and seventh graders has helped lead to the creation of a summer-long urban flea market for regular vendors and students alike to showcase and sell their products.

The Trenton Flea Market and Market Fair will run every Saturday through September 17, 1997. It is located in a lot adjacent to 38 North Hermitage Avenue, between West State Street and Bellevue Avenue.

For more information on the MOB Summer Program, contact Dr. Hernandez at (609) 895-5509. Interested vendors should call (609) 933-0116.

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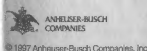


Edith A. Hammond
President
Hammond Enterprises, Inc.
Morristown, NJ

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Are you one yet? an advertising specialty and promotional products company provides us with custom designed corporate gifts and logo recognition items such as beer mugs, writing instruments, clocks, calculators and awards.

If your company is minority or woman-owned and is interested in our "Partners in Economic Progress" Program, contact: Corporate Affairs, Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., One Busch Place, St. Louis, MO 63118.

Partners in Economic Progress



Black minister council warns of shutdown if hospital aid delayed

ORANGE, N.J. (AP)—The Black Ministers Council warned that urban hospitals might close if the state government stalls—like it did last year—in providing a steady flow of \$300 million in aid.

Hospitals are required under state law to treat all uninsured poor patients, and the state reimburses them with "charity care" subsidies. In 1996, however, the state Legislature and Gov. Christie Whitman's administration could not agree on the funding source, and monthly payments were postponed for three months.

Lawmakers and Whitman eventually agreed to divert unemployment taxes to pay hospitals. The authorization to do that expires in December.

"In the last four years in Essex County, we have lost 3,000 hospital jobs to tough financial going, and the situation is only getting worse"

Black Ministers Council director Rev. Reginald Jackson, speaking at The Hospital Center at Orange on Tuesday, said many urban hospitals are in tougher financial straits now than in 1996 and could not survive another round of delayed payments.

"Urban hospitals which are already hanging by a thread, many of them will close," Jackson warned. "This next cycle (in 1998), I am absolutely sure we will not be this lucky. In fact, even with charity care, there is no guarantee the hospitals will remain open."

Jackson said \$300 million a year is not adequate reimbursement because the cost for treating the uninsured poor is more than double that amount.

"We are demanding that there be

full funding," Jackson said.

Sen. Richard Codey, D-Essex, agreed with the call for full funding and urged GOP lawmakers to hold meetings on charity care during the summer, foregoing the traditional vacation and election-year recesses.

"Many of our other urban hospitals in Essex County are in deep financial crisis," said Codey, noting the closing this year of United Hospital in Newark.

"In the last four years in Essex County, we have lost 3,000 hospital jobs to tough financial going, and the situation is only getting worse," Codey said.

GOP leaders have said the matter would be dealt with after the November elections.

Teleconference in schools

Continued from page 1

ilities instead of our differences," he said.

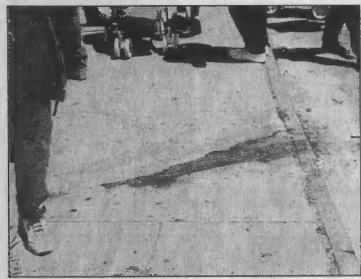
One University High student asked Tate why he left his position as an Essex County Prosecutor to pursue a career in public utilities. "As prosecutor, my primary responsibilities were to oversee police departments, investigate crimes, bring indictments and try criminals. We were the lawyers for victims of crimes," he answered.

"As I got older, I realized that to be a well-rounded attorney, I was going to have to know things about business. As President of the Board of Utilities, I soon had more contact with people because every person in the state has a need for some of the services we provide." As President of the Board, Tate regulates five utility industries which include gas, electric, water, telephone and cable bills. Tate's Board also sets pricing and rates for those bills.

Part of Tate's job involved the recent change in area codes in New Jersey. He stated that roughly four million residential phone lines exist in the state. "We created eight million new lines," he explained. "It was necessary because of competition in the telecommunications area." According to Tate, customers can still use the old area codes until December 1st.

"What is the difference between public and private schools now, in comparison to when he went to school?" a Technology High School student asked. "When I was in school, the primary difference was the size of the school and the ability of the teacher to have more one-on-one instruction," Tate concluded. "The technology we're trying to employ now will help change some of those differences."

'Double Homicide:' State asked to investigate



Blood at the scene where Doneen "Strawberry" Daniels was killed by Police Officer Robert Leaks. Daniels was shot after police say she resisted arrest. Witnesses say it was a case of police brutality.

Continued from Page 1

Eye witnesses also said that Daniels was never in the front seat, and that she was killed during a struggle in the rear with Leaks. Daniels' brother said that when he arrived on the scene, he saw his sister in the rear seat of the car.

According to Glenn, the keys were left in the car's ignition at the time Daniels' was placed in the car with only one handcuff, which would be a violation of police procedure.

"When cops are doing a corner check they leave the keys in the car in case someone decides to run...they (the police officers) can just turn on the car instead of fumbling for their keys. It's not right, but that is usually what they do," Glenn said.

Police sources say that it is standard to violate procedure by placing someone in the police vehicle with only one handcuff under unruly situations. But, in no circumstances are police allowed to leave the vehicle's keys in the ignition.

"Individuals were threatening cops and rather than try and arrest her there the police officers felt it was better to transport her to a safer location," Glenn said.

Some eye witnesses contend that the car was already running when Daniels was placed in the vehicle.

A teenager who Leaks and Johnson also apprehended for being a part of the Daniels' drug transaction was released after investigators found no evidence of involvement.

During the incident, 12 police cars were vandalized and each had at least one tire punctured.

During the Monday morning rally, several protested the handling of the crime scene, in particular the fact that the police car was towed from the scene with Daniels still inside.

Glenn says this is a common practice when an individual is murdered inside a car, which itself would be considered the crime scene. "It is easier to process the crime scene in the confines of an enclosed area such as a medical examiner's office rather than at the site where family and friends would interfere with the investigation," he said, noting the unorthodoxy of the crowd at that time.

The following morning, community organizations canvassed the area announcing the Monday morn-

Auten said. "When things happen in Newark, New Brunswick should be here. When things happen in New Brunswick, Newark should be there. When things happen in Trenton, Newark and New Brunswick should be in Trenton!"

Fredrica Bey of the Anti-Lynching Campaign and chair of Women in Support of the Million Man March noted that the vacant building in front of where Daniels was killed, is the same building that the Nation of Islam seeks to occupy, and is now owned by the city.

"We demand that the city of Newark give the vacant building to Mosque #25 as requested," Ms. Bey said. "Doneen was killed on the spot where the FOI could have been and should be."

She also took issue with how Daniels was treated. "Not only did the killer cop beat this pregnant sister and her unborn baby, she was taken away in the car...shot in the head and left in the junkyard for

over 45 minutes by 'Newark's Finest'."

State Senator Ron Rice, who is a former police officer, called for a joint investigation by State Attorney General Peter Venerio to work jointly with Essex County Prosecutor Clifford Minor.

Rice plans to set up a meeting with the Prosecutor, the Attorney General and community leaders to put together a leadership coalition to prevent future tragedies.

"It's obvious that the leadership you elect are not running this city," Rice said. "There are other people running this city and we need to stop that."

"The Mayor thinks this is something he should not address," Ras Baraka asked, referring to the fact he had not yet addressed the rally. "Then he shouldn't be our damned mayor!"

After meeting with Daniels' family, Mayor James did meet protesters and announced that the inci-

dent would be referred to the Essex County Prosecutor and that Leaks, in an unusual move, was suspended without pay.

James said that the suspension without pay was due to the many unanswered questions and unusual circumstances surrounding the incident as expressed by the family.

"While we wholeheartedly support the police, and while we will answer the call of citizens to remove incidents of lawlessness and drug abuses from our neighborhoods, we also hold our police officers to a high standard of conduct and procedures in carrying out their duties," he said.

Delacy Davis of Black Cops Against Police Brutality (B-CAP), could not attend the rally but said afterward that the community has to remain vigilant, recognizing that officers are innocent until proven guilty, and that due process should be adhered to.

"The wake up call also needs to

go out to black officers," he added. "We cannot participate in activities that are detrimental to our community."

Davis also took to heart the politicians that stepped forward, expressing optimism. "This is the first time I have seen the magnitude of political representatives expressing support during this crisis," he said.

Newark's chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police has spent the days following the incident garnering support for Officer Leaks, saying that he is a victim of political pressure.

At press time, FOP was soliciting support from churches and businesses for a march on City Hall planned for June 18 at 10 a.m.

Leaks' protesters plan to hold rallies every Monday at 10 a.m. at City Hall until Leaks is dismissed from the force and brought to trial.

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Local

The American Dream fulfilled

BERGEN COUNTY — On Thursday, June 25, the Urban League for Bergen County, Inc., will be hosting the first in a series of homebuying workshops. For over 25 years, the Urban League has been at the forefront of providing direction and information to prospective homebuyers. This in itself is not unique. However, the combination of available grants and specific programs geared towards first time homebuyers coupled with the Urban League's expertise make it a winning combination for individuals seeking to purchase their first home. Edward Buist, Director of the Housing Department, says, "that present day conditions make it possible for almost anyone to realize 'The American Dream'." For years, the "American Dream has been no more than a quote. However, it can truly be said that individuals from all walks of life can now buy into the dream.

For additional information or to register for this event, please contact Vicki Washington at (201) 568-4583.

LIONS CLUB CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

PLAINFIELD — The Lions Club of Plainfield plan to celebrate its 75 years of service to the community at a dinner on Wednesday, June 25 at The Willows restaurant in Green Brook.

The ceremonies will be conducted by former Plainfield resident, Russell Vail, who was a former president of the Plainfield Lions who went on to become a District Governor in the Association.

The Plainfield Lions are well known for their benevolence to persons with vision and hearing impairments and annually provide many pairs of new eyeglasses to needy school children and senior citizens who have no other source.

"WISE BUYS" AROUND IN NEWARK

On June 16, 1997, residents and workers in Newark had access to the City of Newark's "Wise Buys" coupon book which offered discounts on goods and services at 150 different retail stores throughout the City of Newark.

The booklets were distributed to Newark residents and employees through community based organizations, houses of worship, senior citizen housing complexes, major businesses and direct mailing. According to Spencer Ferdinand, director of Economic Development programs, the "Wise Buys" program is "a vehicle to help stimulate the patronage of local retailers by people who live and work in Newark."

Mayor Sharpe James said, "There is something in Newark for every kind of shopper. We have specialty boutiques, antique shops, eateries, bargain stores, beauty services, just to name a few. The merchandise is the same or better than what which is offered in suburban shopping malls. Now, with the "Buy Wise" program people can get the same items for less by shopping in Newark."

"Through this discount incentive we hope that residents will realize the convenience of shopping in Newark and choose it over some suburban location," said Ferdinand. "We are eager to showcase the variety and abundance of goods and services available in Newark."

For more information about the program please call the Division of Economic Development at (201) 733-6284.

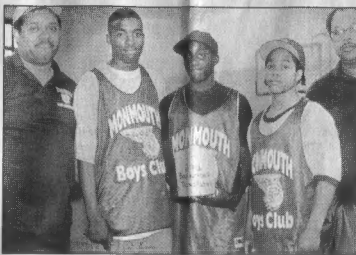
Asbury team Memphis bound

by Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK — On every weekend you will surely find some youths outside of the supermarkets and local stores with small yellow "garbage can" canister asking for donations to help fund their trip to the National AAU Basketball Championships in Memphis, Tennessee, June 27 to July 6.

To the sheer delight and somewhat amazement of even the team members, the Ages-13-and-under youth basketball team of the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County placed second in the State AAU Invitational Tournament in May. The top three state teams qualify for the nationals, but they must pay their own way to the tournament. They estimate that they will need about \$7000 to cover all the fees and travel expenses. The Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County will provide some of the funds, so the members and supporters have hit the street to raise the remainder.

Team members come from Asbury Park, Wall, Spring Lake Heights, Neptune and Manasquan. "I feel good about going to Memphis, this is my second year of playing ball, and I plan to play for Asbury Park High School," said Tyreek Stafford, 13, "we had good coaches and they taught us discipline."



Basketballers at the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County are raising funds for trip to AAU nationals in Memphis. Pictured are (l to r) Kenny Johnson, recreation director and assistant coach, Tyreek Stafford, Shavar Tillman, Jerry Juley, and Norman Jarrett, biddy basketball coordinator.

The 12-member team with Coach Mike Todd and assistant coach, Kenny Johnson will travel in vans to the competition. Johnson, is also the club's recreation director, who was as excited as the boys, said, "We are going to Memphis, this is an excellent opportunity for the young men, since plans include visits to cultural and educational sites during the trip." His comments were echoed by John Tague, assistant principal of Freehold Township High School and coach of a 12-and-under team at the club. His son Sean, 12, is also a team member.

Kevin McMillan, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County summed it all up with, "I am very excited because it will give our kids great exposure... we will make it a reality!" Donations may be sent to the Boys and Girls Club of Monmouth County, 1201 Munroe Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712. The telephone number is (908) 775-7862.

Branch Brook suspect still at large

NEWARK — In the case of the 29-year-old woman found strangled in Branch Brook Park early Saturday May 31, the Essex County sheriff's department released a composite drawing of a suspect.

Essex County law enforcement authorities on June 9, offered a \$1000 reward to anyone who can provide information to the whereabouts of Victorino Rubi, a 37-year-old male El Salvadorian national who was last seen fleeing the homicide scene on foot near the Davenport Avenue subway station.

Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura stated that detectives are looking to question Rubi who is further described as 5' 7" tall, 160 pounds, slender body build, dark hair and eyes and a dark olive complexion.

Rubi may also have scratch marks on his face as a result of the incident. He speaks limited English with a heavy accent and frequently wears a baseball cap the Sheriff noted.

Fontoura added that the sheriff's "CRIMESTOPPERS" program will pay up to \$1000 to any citizen who provides police investigators



with information surrounding the death of Maribel Ramos whose body was discovered in the park shortly after midnight.

Persons with information about the homicide may call S-H-E-R I-F-E, a 24-hour hotline.

Citizens with information may also contact Detective Michael Prokopiw of the Essex County Police at 482-2100 or Investigator Lonnie Hinton of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office at 621-4593. All calls will be kept confidential.

Plainfield Mayor announces city improvement plans

PLAINFIELD — Mayor Mark A. Fury announced recently the release of the 1997 Capital Improvement Program Budget to the Plainfield Planning Board. He also announced that work on city parking lots is near completion.

The Capital Improvement Budget includes capital proposals totaling \$6.1 million across various City agencies and programs. Included in the 1997 Plan is the purchase of properties totaling over \$1 million at the former Tepper's Department Store site in downtown Plainfield.

"This 1997 Capital Improvement Budget signals this Administration's commitment to addressing the infrastructure and economic development needs of the City of

Plainfield which have been previously neglected. We can no longer delay the rebuilding of our City," Mayor Fury said.

Included in the Capital Improvement Program is an amount for playground equipment and renovation. An additional \$1.4 million is earmarked for renovations and repairs to streets and roads throughout the City in the next year. Another \$100,000 is planned for the removal of fuel storage tanks at a proposed housing development on Randolph Road and Arlington Avenue. Approval of the Capital Improvement Plan by the City Council will take place following the review and recommendations of the Planning Board according to City Administration Henry Kita. The construction

work of the three parking lots which is to take place over a period of two months, targets Parking Lot No.1 located on Roosevelt and Watchung Avenues, Parking lot No. 6 at East Second Street and Parking Lot No.8 behind Watchung and Park Avenues are near completion with Lot One being newly-refurbished.

The work to be completed included: new paint striping, improved lighting, landscaping, fencing and removing an unused attendant booth to create additional parking space for vehicles.

"Once the work is completed, we anticipate that the lots will offer a combination of monthly parking spaces for business owners and their employees, together with available monthly permits and parking meters

for customers," said Roger Pollard, Director of Public Works and Urban Development.

In another action Mayor Fury announced that June 30, 1997 marks the start of the city-wide street clean up program. At the same time, the ongoing "spring cleaning" effort carried out by the Public Works Division will extend all the way to July.

"With the presence of four street sweepers, every street and every

ward will be swept at least once a week," said Mayor Fury. The City recently received two additional street sweepers, bringing the total to four.

City residents and volunteer groups are invited to participate in the Program and help clean up their neighborhood.

For further information call Public Works at 908-753-3376.

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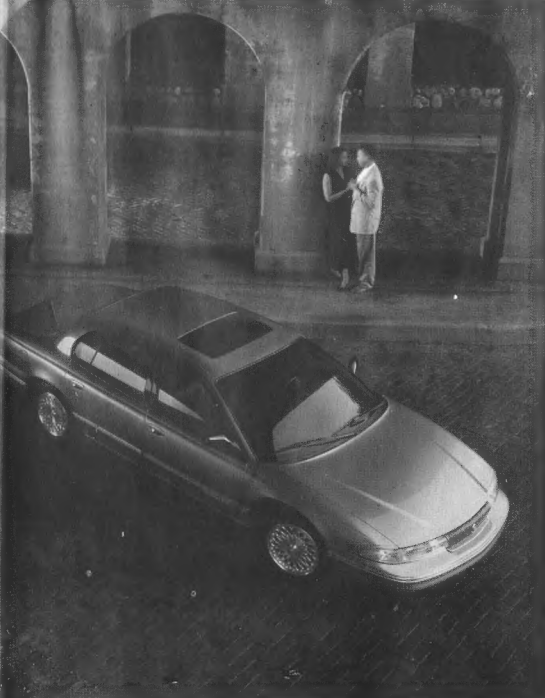


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Aerobic exercise tapes

by Vince & Yolanda

Aerobic exercise tapes are a lot of fun and cheaper than a health club membership and it's a little easier to fit into a busy schedule than an exercise class. Privacy is another reason for buying an aerobic tape, because it's possible to try potentially embarrassing routines without an audience. The word aerobic means with oxygen. Oxygen is used to produce energy during aerobic activities. To do this the body has to be in continuous motion for more than 20 minutes. Only aerobic exercise will help increase cardiovascular endurance by working the heart and lungs. Vigorous walking, jogging, swimming, cycling, cross country skiing, skipping rope and aerobic dance tapes can be used for aerobic conditioning.

Aerobic workouts not only allow the heart and lungs to work more efficiently with less effort, but will also help you burn body fat if you do 30 minutes or more of continuous movement. It takes your body 20 minutes to switch to the fat burning stage during a workout. Try to get in at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three to four times a week. Try to keep your aerobic workout under 60 minutes. This way you won't overdo it and you'll decrease your risk of injury due to repetitive stress. Thirty to 45 minutes is ideal, but you may have to start below 10 minutes even though the tape is longer and then increase your workout time gradually. If you're trying to lose weight, an aerobic workout tape with a proper eating plan will help you see results within a few weeks.

Survey examines men's health

A new nationwide survey released today reveals that the nation's roughly 10 million African American men are less trusting of their doctor than white men, and yet, are more concerned about most male related health issues.

The survey, conducted for Men's Health magazine and CNN, in conjunction with National Men's Health Week (June 9 - 15) also finds that despite their higher risk for health problems such as heart disease and prostate cancer, African American men are less likely to believe these health problems will affect them in their lifetimes.

According to the survey, slightly less than half (46%) of African American men believe that they will develop heart disease. This despite the fact that the death rate for coronary heart disease is three percent higher among African American men than for white men. Conversely, 56% of white men believe they will develop coronary heart disease in their lifetime.

Similarly, while African American men have the highest incidence for prostate cancer in the world, only 50% believe they are at risk for developing prostate cancer compared to 49% of white men who stated as such. Overall, eighty per-

cent of men believe that prostate cancer is an important health issue, an increase of six percentage points from just two years ago.

"The recent number of high profile celebrities such as Arnold Palmer who have openly discussed their battle with prostate cancer has certainly made this disease more important in the minds of American men," says Mike Lafavore, executive editor for Men's Health. "Yet, it is clear from this study that this message needs to be expanded on a greater level into the African American community."

Overall, the survey finds that African American men are much more likely to recognize their risk for a number of health related problems. The survey finds that among African American men, higher percentages recognize their risk for developing problems such as hypertension (65% vs. 54%), diabetes (46% vs. 32%), high cholesterol (63% vs. 53%), lung cancer (42% vs. 33%), pneumonia (46% vs. 32%), and hepatitis (35% vs. 15% compared to white men).

In general, African American men rate their health positively, with 53% rating it as either excellent (21%) or very good (32%). This compares to 63% of white men who

stated as such.

Yet, despite their overall positive health, African American men



are reluctant to see their doctor for annual health checks. Among those surveyed, 33% have not been to the doctor in the past twelve months for

a physical examination or "check up."

Among the key factors for not going to the doctor were cost (56%), lack of trust (34%), lack of time (25%), only sick people go to the doctor (25%), and a belief that if something were really wrong, the doctor wouldn't be able to do anything anyway (23%).

Again, African American men were much more likely than white men (34% vs. 23%) to cite trust as a key factor for not going to the doctor.

However, among those African American men who have not been to the doctor in the past twelve months, a significantly higher percentage cited cost as the key factor compared to white men (71% vs. 46%) who stated as such.

"The barriers keeping African American men from building a relationship with their physician need to be broken," says Lafavore. "This is especially important given the higher incidences of health problems that strike this segment of our society."

When it comes to preventive health checks, African American men are more likely on a regular basis than white males to have their blood pressure checked by a health professional (76% vs. 70%), use condoms during sexual intercourse

(42% vs. 29%), and have a test for colon cancer (27% vs. 24%).

However, in a number of preventive health areas, African American men are less likely on a regular basis than white males to limit alcohol consumption (55% vs. 71%), exercise regularly (52% vs. 64%), not smoke cigarettes or use tobacco products (49% vs. 54%), have annual flu shots (32% vs. 38%), lose weight (29% vs. 38%), and have a test for prostate cancer (31% vs. 36%).

Finally, the survey finds that a majority of African American men support proposed government regulations that would prevent cigarette companies from advertising to children, with nearly three quarters of those surveyed (70%) stating as such. However, this is significantly less than the number of white males who support these efforts (86%).

African American men are in agreement, however, that the government is doing a poor job of keeping kids from smoking. According to the survey, 80% of African American men rated the government's efforts as either fair (30%) or poor (50%). Overall, 86% of men rated the government as doing a bad job when it comes to keeping kids from smoking.

Summer safety

Warm weather is here and so are the lazy days of summer. While many of us are looking forward to a summer vacation, keep in mind that youngsters are beginning theirs.

"The end of the school year marks the return of thousands of youngsters to inner sidewalks and streets. That means motorists must

watch out for children at play," said Pam Fischer, assistant vice president of public relations and safety for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park.

"... Motorists must be on the lookout for boys and girls who run across the street without warning, dart suddenly from behind a parked

car or chase after a loose ball. Being alert is critical," she added.

According to AAA's Fischer, there's also no better time for parents and children to review bicycle safety rules than at the start of summer vacation.

Always wear an approved bicycle safety helmet.

Stop and check for traffic before entering the street from a driveway, parking lot or sidewalk.

Obey all traffic signs, signals and pavement markings.

Ride on the right-hand side of the street, moving with the flow of traffic.

Be extra careful turning left.

Slow down when you approach an intersection.

Give cars and pedestrians the right-of-way.

Avoid riding after dark or if the weather is bad.

Columbus Nursing employees of the year



Columbus Hospital employees standing L. to R., Shirley Whitaker, LPN - Labor & Delivery, of E. Orange; Roseanna Savere, MA - Med/Surg Unit, of Irvington; and Bloomfield residents Edwin Fernandez, Unit Clerk - Emergency Dept.; and Mary Paone, RN, Staff Development/Education Dept., recently received the Nursing Employee of the Year Award at a dinner held in their honor.

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BILLBOARD
CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

NEWARK—Shirley Maershall at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

TRENTON—Capital Music Festival Concert at the New Jersey State Museum. For more information, call 609-292-6464.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

NEW YORK—Richard Elliot at the Supper Club. For more information, call 310-274-0248.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

NEWARK—Community Partners Concert, a benefit for area nonprofit groups featuring Take 6 and 18-year-old pianist Stewart Goodyear. At Symphony Hall. For more information, call 201-624-3713.

JULY 8-22

CRANFORD—New courses providing critical reviews of film. For more information, call Union County College at 908-769-7600.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

NEWARK—Peter Adams & Jim Pellegrino Quartet at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

NEWARK—Bradford Hayes at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

NEWARK—Bandit at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

NEWARK—David Robinson and the All Stars at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

AUGUST 5-19

CRANFORD—New courses providing critical reviews of film. For more information, call Union County College 908-769-7600.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

NEWARK—Manhattan Rhythm at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

NEWARK—Susan Taylor's Broadway Band at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

NEWARK—Reeltime at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

NEWARK—Dynasty Band at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

NEWARK—PSEG Gospel at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

NEWARK—Souls of Integrity at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

NEWARK—The Benjo Roginians at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

NEWARK—Ritmo and Caliente at PSEG's Robert I. Smith Amphitheater. For more information, call 201-430-7000.

23rd Annual Black Film Festival at Newark Museum



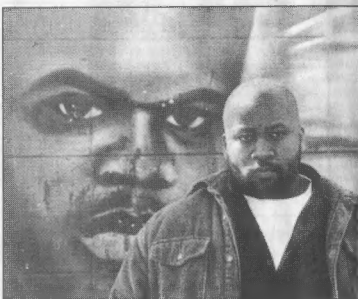
Spike Lee

Film enthusiasts will be visiting Newark, NJ in earnest this month to attend the 23rd Annual Newark Black Film Festival that kicks off on Wednesday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m. at Newark Symphony Hall. The six-week-long film showcase begins with a screening of When We Were Kings—the 1996 Academy Award winning documentary that chron-

cles the unforgettable 1974 boxing match in Zaire between Muhammad Ali and George Forman. Leon Gast, Richard Wesley and Spike Lee will also participate in lectures throughout the festival. Among the film's to be shown are: Get on the Bus, Spike Lee's insightful portrayal of several black men making a cross-country trip to the historic Million Man

March, Mandela and deKlerk. Guel was, a satirical look at contemporary Africa, W.E.B. DuBois, A Biography in four Voices, Sentry at the Gate, Dusk Before Dawn, Morningside Prep and The Keeper. The festival also features six films for children. For information call (201) 596-6550.

Murder of young hip hop artist subject of Jesse's Gone



In his first film, Michael Smith reminds us that America is a dangerous place for young black men, bracing life into the headlines and homicide statistics to reveal an emotional story about death and living with loss. Jesse's Gone is an incisive, excruciatingly tender look at the frayed lives of the family and friends of Jesse Rahim Hall, a promising young rap artist from East Oakland, California whose voice was muted by the bullet of an unknown assailant. The San Francisco Bay Guardian praised this hauntingly rhythmic film, saying, "This much unchecked honesty and anger cuts to the core of too many uncomfortable realities." Jesse's Gone will air nationally Tuesday June 24 at 10:30 P.M. ET on PBS (check local listings) as part of the P.O.V. series, broadcast television's only continuing showcase for independent non-fiction film. Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, P.O.V. continues a decade of innovative, independent and interactive programming Tuesdays June 3 through August 5.

COMMUNITY



Geta Adew's idea of neighborhood involvement began in his home of Ethiopia, and he continues it today as a McDonald's® owner in Denver. Geta sponsors programs like the NAACP Voter Registration Drive, school book drives, and his own special free Thanksgiving Day dinner to seniors, which attracts up to 300 people a year.



Benji and Tina Lewis, owners of the San Diego McDonald's, have been part of the community for over 10 years. In addition to supporting local causes such as UNCF Black Law Enforcement Network, and a drug abuse education program, the couple started the McDonald's AVAL (African American Volunteer Leadership) Program, awarding over \$125,000 in scholarships in 1996 alone to local high school seniors.

Theda Ruddy's love of children and education, combined with being a successful owner of six McDonald's, kept her a busy member of the Lansing community. Not only is Theda chairing a board to open an area Ronald McDonald House, but she also volunteers time reading to and speaking with school children of all ages. Each year, she even offers three of her McDonald's employees scholarships to her alma mater, Michigan State University.



Phineas Kamangira



Richard Mishi



Benjamin Mustafa

African artists will be exhibited at "Zimbabwe Sculpture in Stone," June 14 - July 18, at Swain Galleries in Plainfield.

The sculptors are based in Harare, the capital, where some are in the Chirembere Cooperative and a number have exhibited in the National Gallery of Zimbabwe and have gained international recognition.

John Alexis of Heart of Africa, Ltd., in Basking Ridge, traveled to South Africa following graduation from Rutgers University, returning home with a small example of what is generally known as Shona sculpture from the tribal name. The sculpture ignited immediate interest, resulting in Alexis' determination to import and show the work. Heart of Africa is helping to develop environmental education programs in Zimbabwe schools, providing textbooks and other materials.

For details, call 908-756-1707.

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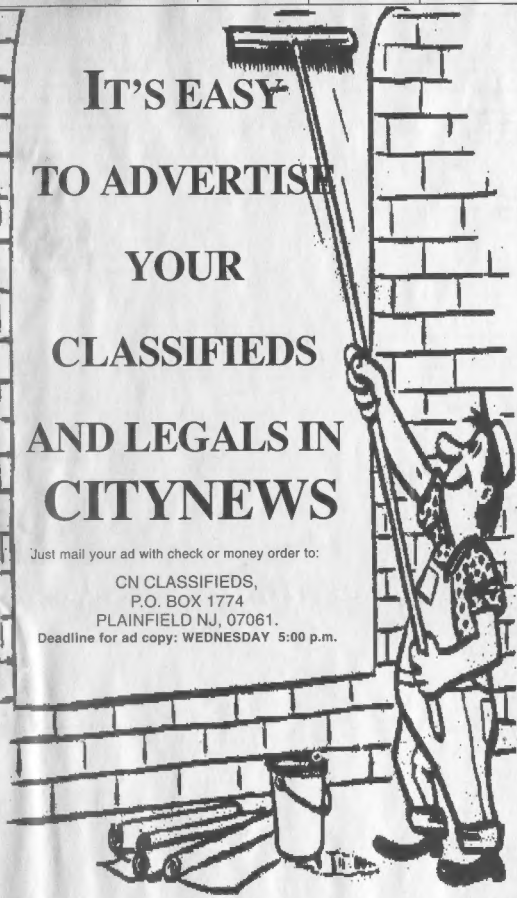
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NJPAC Brick campaign finds new members

MONTCLAIR—Members of The Montclair Chapter of Drifters Inc., a group of women, who focus their time and financial resources to improve the quality of African American children, women and families, hand over a check, joining NJPAC's brick campaign. 22 names of the women will be engraved in NJPAC bricks which will be placed at the Center's Theater Square, memorable for generations to come. Subscribers to NJPAC's brick program gain Silver Charter Member benefits such as: advance notice of all NJPAC Subscription Series and individual events, special handling of phone and mail orders; special

"Year Plus" privileges with benefits throughout the Inaugural Season, including member-only events, NJPAC construction site tours, meet-the-artists pre-opening receptions and the first anniversary Back-Stage party to celebrate the inaugural year, as well as subscription to NJPAC's newsletters, providing inside information about visiting stars, upcoming events, classes and workshops; discounts on gift shop items, area restaurants and shops, NJPAC Decal, identifying their support of the arts, free tickets to NJPAC's children programs, and special souvenirs for children.



(l-r) Jan Furlow of the Drifters, Gail Thompson, vice president NJPAC, Margarete Foster, president of the Montclair chapter of Drifters, and J.P. Powell, of the Drifters

Rev. Soaries keynotes Newark parent awards

NEWARK — The Newark Parent Volunteer Academy of The Newark Public Schools will honor parents, staff and administrators at the First Annual Parent Academy Awards Night on Thursday, June 19, 5:00p.m., at Louise A. Spencer Elementary School. The awards will recognize those members of the Newark school community who have volunteered to come together in partnership with the school district to advance the education of the city's schoolchildren.



Rev. Dr. Buster Soaries

before the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia and called for more volunteers to help the nation's at-risk youth. Dr. Soaries was recently recognized by New Jersey Network (NJN) with its prestigious Partnership Award for his many years of community service.

Catching the community spirit during Neighborhood Month

NEWARK—Has that vacant lot you use as a landmark during your daily commute to and from work or school been replaced by a playground or mini garden? Are you getting calls from workaholic friends and relatives expressing the joy of tutoring a child on their lunch hour? Do not be alarmed—June is United Way of Essex and West Hudson's Neighborhood Month and anything is possible! The Newark Community Delegation to the President's Summit last month returned to our community renewed in our collective commitment that one person can make a difference.

Whether you choose to lend a hand to a clean-up or beautification project, or use your more cerebral abilities to share the wonders of learning with a child in need of tutoring, we have an activity for you! The next activities currently

planned for Neighborhood Month in the city of Newark are:

June 18, 5 to 7 pm. beautification and flower planting. AD House 13 Clinton Place. 10 volunteers needed.

June 20, 10am to 2 pm (lunch will be provided). Interior Painting. The Leaguers 731 Clinton Ave. 10 volunteers needed.

June 22, 1pm to 5pm. Clean-up Branch Brook Park Between Heller Parkway and Bloomfield Ave. Need as many volunteers as possible.

June 28, 10:30am to 1:30pm, 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Hand out information to general public regarding United Way and its programs (a UW member will be present). Newark Festival of People, Military Park. 4 volunteers needed, 2 per shift).

For more information, call (201)624-8300 x 252.

Gov't offers opportunity to protect and serve

by Sonia Kimble

Glenn D. Cunningham is the first African-American to serve as United States Marshal for the District of New Jersey. He is one of 94 U.S. Marshals to head their districts across the country. Nominated to that post by President Bill Clinton, the application was soon confirmed by the members of the United States Senate.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Cunningham has worked as a U.S. Marshal for a little shy of a year. His impressive background in law enforcement (a high-ranking officer in the Jersey City Police Department) and politics (a member of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Councilman, Councilman-at-large and Council President in Jersey City), has prepared him for his new position.

Cunningham encourages interested parties to apply for upcoming positions for U.S. Deputy Marshal. There are several hundred positions available across the country. Applications, which are currently being accepted by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, must be submitted by June 27th. For applications and information, call (215) 597-7440 or the NJ U.S. Marshal's office at (201) 645-2404.

"We want applicants to look at this job as an option," Cunningham explained. "We're looking to improve the diversity of races among the ranks." Requirements for the position of U.S. Deputy Marshal include a 4-year college degree and at least 3 years work experience in a correction facility, law enforcement, interviewing



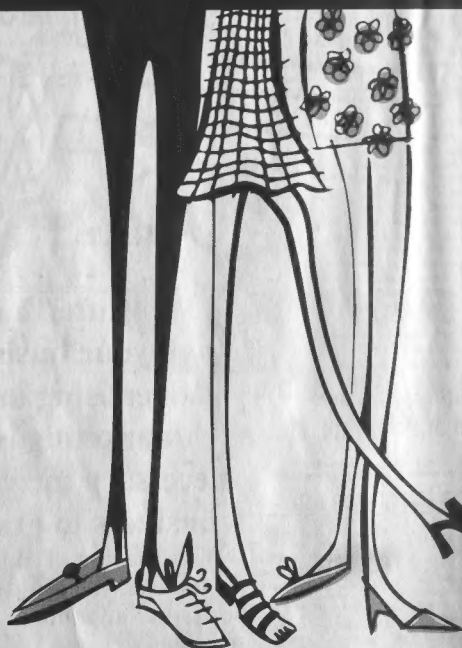
Glenn Cunningham is the U.S. Marshal for the district of New Jersey

experience in a private or public service agency. All applicants must be under 37 years of age.

The work of a U.S. Marshal is often exciting and interesting. Some of their duties include fugitive investigation (Cunningham recently traveled to Switzerland to bring back someone under investigation for fraud), and seize and forfeiture of property and money.

"We're also responsible for securing court facilities and for the safety of judges," he added. "We're often responsible, as well, for the protection of people under the witness protection program."

Cunningham suggests the ARCO Study Guide as a helpful study tool for those who make it to the testing process. It is available in major book stores and libraries.



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